

Item 24-0111: 2023 Q4 Report

Board of Health

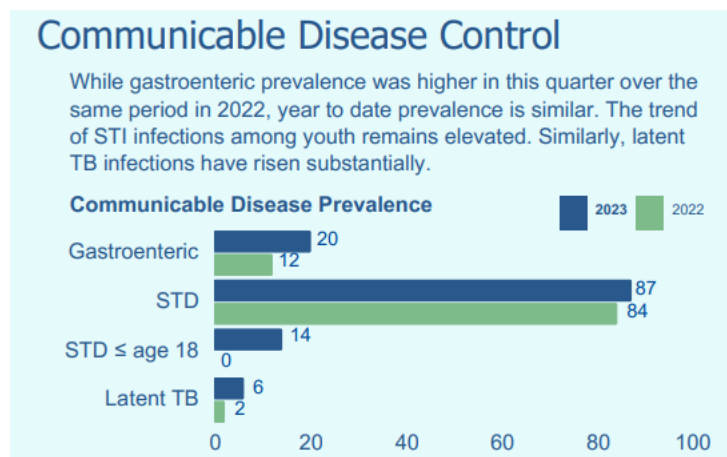
Wed, Feb 14, 2024 7:00AM

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 41:00

Okay, 24-0111 2023 Q4 report. Dr. Sepers.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 41:08

And I'll just highlight a few things here. If we look at the communicable disease data display, we continue to see sort of this national trend of increase in STDs in persons under 18 years of age. This is something that we've noticed here for the last probably year and a half, this this trend, and it continues. So, something that we're keeping an eye on, but just wanted to highlight.



Health Officer Charles Sepers 41:43

From our Community Health section, just want to highlight some of the work that's been ongoing there. We're, with the moving the Coordinated Entry specialist from Community and Economic Development and applying sort of the expertise of public health in that critical housing social determinant, we've really been able to grow and increase the capacity of that program. Here as in the early part of 2024, we've begun sketching out the new Community Resource Navigator role that will be coming online on April one. So that'll be the sort of boots on the ground for that housing piece, that that basic needs resource navigation piece. So that's some really exciting work that that's ongoing.



Health Officer Charles Sepers 42:51

I'll then take us to the inspections data. So, we see, this is just Q4, but 148 inspections versus 97 the previous quarter in the—or the in the same quarter in the previous year. And that goes, to sort of flesh out, we saw a strong increase in the number of inspections that we've been able to do in all four quarters all four quarters in

2023, as a result of the new staffing that we were able to bring in. It'll be interesting to see where we are in July, but as—with only having the new sanitarian for the first two quarters of 2023, we saw an over performance of, in fee collection, of \$108,000. So that outperform what we were expecting, and I think that's just really due to a much better turnaround in customer service.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 44:03

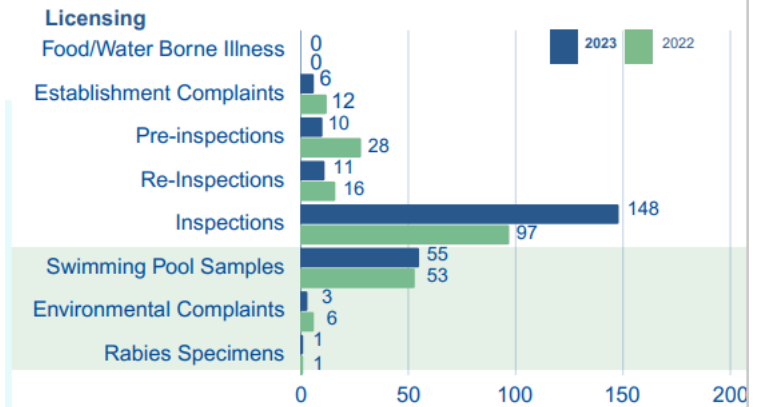
And we see that reflected in the establishment complaints. That's a that's a reduction from 12 in 2022 to 6 and 2023. And the environmental complaints. Again, we've got more capacity in the entire Environmental Health System so it's able—it has enabled us to meet those expectations a little bit more squarely.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 44:35

And then weights and measures I want to call out. We do see a decrease in the establishment inspections there, but that is due to a schedule change. So, one of the things that we're constantly doing is evaluating what is the what is the best time to perform certain inspections. And so, this is largely due—our decrease in that quarter is reflected in a year to date being very similar. So, if we look at the entire year, those data are very similar for the number of inspections. But if we look at this, it jumps out at me. So, I wanted to highlight that here.

Environmental Public Health

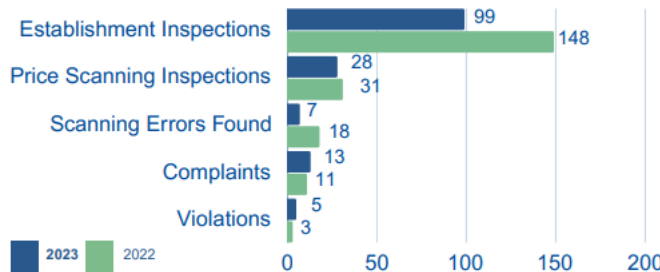
Increased staffing capacity of the Environmental Health division has led to an increase in routine inspections in all quarters in 2023. The decreased number of restaurant complaints is likely due to the increase in overall routine inspections.



Weights & Measures

While establishment inspections are lower in this quarter in 2023 when compared to 2024, this is due to inspection scheduling changes. YTD 2023 totals are similar to YTD 2022 totals.

Establishment Inspections, Price Scanning Inspections, Complaints, & Violations



Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 45:22

Are there any questions? I just have one. To me, it's concerning that there's been a reduction in referrals to our public health nursing. I don't know if Deputy Director Jensen can speak to that at all? Or are we reaching out to try to get the house systems to refer more people? or are we just not having them meet the funding criteria? I mean, I mean, that they're above what they need to be making in order for us to go out and visit?

Deputy Director Sonja Jensen (Health Department) 45:59

Yeah, we are definitely doing some more outreach. We have more partnerships in the community. And it isn't reflected here yet, but we have seen an increase in referrals in the past few months, again, for prenatal care

coordination, in particular, and maternal/child health. So, but we are definitely doing more— one of our nurses—like we're working more with the Appleton Area School District and clinics like Mosaic and Vida and just getting the word out that we're here in the services that we offer.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 46:36

Excellent, thank you.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 46:38

And just to add to that, our outreach has increased as well. We've been working with Building for Kids as part of their regular programming for that that early child phase there. There's some programming around that. So, we've we have direct access to the clients of that program, and we're looking for those sorts of partnerships as we're as we're moving forward to increase the organic referral rates.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 47:16

There might be more that we can do. We're looking at what are what are some education opportunities. Another thing I would highlight, too, that Deputy Director Jensen has been a part of, we're working to develop the curriculum for the New Appleton Academy which is kicking off in March. So, we'll be talking about all of our programs and hopefully that we see a lot of interest in that as well.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 47:48

Okay, excellent. Oh, Alderperson Meltzer.

Alderperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 47:53

Yeah, I'm just looking at how the trend is going with STDs in in youth, and I'm wondering what our strategy is and what actions we're taking from the health department side of things.

Health Officer Charles Sepers 48:07

Yeah, so I'll, I'll talk a little bit about that, and I'll turn that over as well. But one of the things that we do right now is we work with a vendor to provide STI testing and treatment. At this point, it's unclear exactly how that's performing. You do not see our S—our detailed STI data in in the q4. That's because we were unable to get it in for Q4. We've been working to reach out to get that, but this is actually a regional problem for using the same vendor. I know Outagamie County is experiencing the same the same problem with this vendor. It's unclear at this time exactly what is happening in in so much as it could be that we take a more hands on approach with this. Again, this is a national trend that we're seeing, but there are there are local things that that we can do. And until we have all of those data, it's hard to really understand, you know, what those opportunities are.

Alderperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 49:24

Thank you.

Deputy Director Sonja Jensen (Health Department) 49:24

I think just a few other points, too. I mean, obviously, during the high point of the pandemic, when we were just flooded with following up on COVID, there weren't any health departments that could do a lot of, you know, education and follow up with STIs, unfortunately. That has definitely been able to be more robust in the past year so. And then we're also trying to work with, again, some of our community partners to get the—make sure the education is getting out there. Because it's one thing to follow up after they're already infected. Maybe you can prevent reinfection or, you know, but really, we need to get at the problem, which is, you know, education before it happens.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 49:25
Thank you.

Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 49:44
Anybody else? All right. Thank you very much.